SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION INFORMATION COMMISSION

8 1969

For the independence and freedom of our Fatherland

Let's mount continuous offensives and uprisings !

(RSVN PRG' Statement on Geneva Agreements anniversary)

THE 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam whose signing was the result of the victories recorded by our whole people in their protracted valiant struggle against the French colonialists, have recognized the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam.

In their design to turn South Viet Nam into a new-type colony and military base of the US and prolong the partition of Viet Nam however, the US imperialists in the past fifteen years have used a puppet regime as an instrument of aggression, and been waging war of the most savage kind in history on the Vietnamese people. They have committed over half a million US expeditionary troops and troops of satellite countries to their aggression, and launched an air-naval war of destruction against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, perpetrating bloody crimes in both parts of our country, brutally violating human rights and the fundamental national rights of our people, seriously undermining the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, and challenging all norms of international law. Moreover, they have been stepping up the special war in Laos while intruding into the territory and treatening the independence and neutrality of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

For the sake of their Fatherland's independence and freedom, the fourteen million heroic South Vietnamese in the past fifteen years have been relentlessly resisting the US aggressors and their henchmen. Under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam have thwarted the US "special war" and are defeating the US "local war".

Especially since Spring 1968, the armed forces and people here have been staging series of offensives and uprisings, winning unprecedentedly big and all.

(Continued on page 2)

FIGHTERS AND COMPATRIOTS IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY,

March forward resolutely !

(Appeal of President Ho Chi Minh on the occasion of July 20, 1969)

Dear fighters and compatriots throughout the country !

Fifteen years ago, after the glorious victory of Dien Bien Phu, the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam recognized our people's fundamental rights – independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. These agreements provided for the holding of free general elections in July 1956 to reunify the whole of Viet Nam.

But the US imperialists have impudently sabotaged the Geneva Agreements, carried out aggression against our country, and unleashed the most atrocious colonial war in history of humanity.

Throughout the past fifteen years, our armed forces and people in the whole country, united as one man, braving all sacrifices and hardships, have fought with sublime heroism against US aggression to save the country. The US imperialists' aggressive plans have gone bankrupt one after another, the US defeats have become heavier and heavier; our people have gone from success to success, and are sure to win total victory.

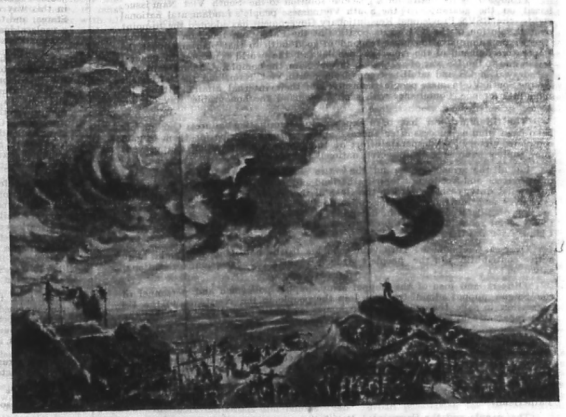
The armed forces and people in the North have defeated the US aggressors' war of destruction.

The armed forces and people in the South are defeating the US "local war".

(Continued on page 2)

New all-sided successes and further steady progress

(page 4)



Lest's stick to this expanse of sea, our birthplace.
Water colour by THAI HA

Let s mount continuous...

(Continued from page 1)

round successes, and driving the US puppets into a losing position, critical passiveness and dire predicament. In their valiant fight, the armed forces and people of North Viet Nam foiled the war of destruction of the US imperialists, in their determination to fulfil their duty as the great rear area towards the great front.

Running their heads against the militant solidarity of the thirty-one million Vietnamese, the US imperialists had to cease unconditionally the bombardments on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and take part in the four-party Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

However, they have not yet given up their aggressive design. The Nixon administration, labouring under the illusion of a position of strength, is doing its best to step up the war, perpetrating new crimes in South Viet Nam. It is trying to prolong its military occupation of South Viet Nam, bolster the puppet administration and beef up the puppet army in an attempt to maintain their neo-colonialist domination of South Viet Nam and prolong the partition of Viet Nam. At the same time, it continues violating the sovereignty and threatening security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

Facing complete collapse, the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration is desperately clinging to the US while ruthlessly cracking down upon all advocates of peace, independence and neutrality, include people of the various religious communities, intellectuals, students, businessmen, and members of the puppet army and administration. It is opposing with tooth and nail the formation of a national coalition government. So doing, it is thwarting the aspirations of all strata in South Viet Nam for independence, peace and national concord.

At the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, the US with its stance, as a die-hard aggressor, is seeking to confuse the right and the wrong, and put on a par the aggressor and the victim of aggression. With absurd demands, it is trying to evade the key to the settlement of the SVN issue, which is the ending of the US aggression by the total and unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

The Nixon administration has not given a serious response to the NFL-s 10-point overall solution which shows the correct position and goodwill of our people and which has been warmly welcomed by the world's peoples including progressives in the United States. Nixon's so-called 8-point peace program and Thieu's six points on "free elections" run completely counter to the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the South Vietnamese people's right self-determination. They are against the complete and unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and are meant to force the South Vietnamese people to give up their fight and bow to the rule of the US aggressors and their lackeys.

Nixon's decision to pull 25.000 US troops out of South Viet Nam is but a deceitful move to soothe the public now urging the US to end its war of aggression in Viet Nam and promptly bring its troops home.

Due to the obduracy of the US and the Saigon puppet administration, the Paris Conference on Viet Nam has made no progress so far. The Nixon administration must be held entirely responsible for this deadlock.

The South Vietnamese people cherish peace, but that must be peace in independence and freedom. If the US stubbornly prolongs the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, the people here will fight on persistently, till not a single US aggressor soldier is left. The recent convention of the South Viet Nam Congress of People's Representatives and the establishment of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government constituted another very great achievement of the South Viet Nam revolution, and a manifestation of the South Vietnamese people's iron determination to win complete victory in their struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

Prompted by its desire for a peaceful solution to the South Viet Nam issue, based on the guarantees of the South Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights, the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government has adopted the 10-point overall solution of the NFL as its position at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. The Nixon administration must respond in good faith to that plan and meet the imperative demand of the American people and the world's peoples in general for an end to the US war of aggression in Viet Nam, the complete and unconditional withdrawal of US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and the settlement by the South Vietnamese people themselves of their internal affairs, without foreign interference. Compliance with such a demand the honourable way out for the US.

The US unjust war has been experiencing humiliating failures. Our people have been winning success after success, and conditions are ripe for them to gain complete victory. No desperate effort of the Nixon administration can prevent our people's exercising their sacred national rights.

Let all the armed forces and the entire people of South Viet Nam, for the independence and freedom of their Fatherland and in fulfilment of their lofty internationalist duty, rush forward in the flush of their victories and mount continuous offensives and uprisings to bring to fruition with outstanding success the sacred mission of liberating the South, defending the North, and achieving ultimately the peaceful reunification of the country thus contributing to the defence in Indo-China, Asia and the world!

Overseas Vietnamese! Turn your thoughts to the homeland, and make more active contributions to the people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation!

Officers and men of the puppet army, puppet policemen and personnel of the Saigon puppet administration! Join the people in the resistance to the US aggression to save the country, your homes and your own lives, now that the US-puppets are in sore straits.

The RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government and the entire South Vietnamese people feel deeply grateful to beloved President Ho Chi Minh and the seventeen million Northern compatriots for their constant encouragement and all-out support for the liberation of South Viet Nam.

The fourteen million South Vietnamese pledge their determination to accomplish in the most satisfactory manner the mission entrusted to them by the Fatherland.

The people and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam sincerely thank the socialist countries and friends in all the five continents for the great sympathy with, and great support and assistance to, the Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation. We express our gratitude to the progressives in the United States for valiantly and continously pushing up the movement against the US war of aggression in Viet Nam. We are grateful to various international democratic organizations and the governments and peoples of those countries now taking part in the campaign of solidarity with the Vietnamese people on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam.

The RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government calls on various governments and organizations, progressives in the world, and peace, freedom — and justice-loving people in the United States, to press for the US respect for the basis principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam, i.e. the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam, and to give more vigorous support moral and material, to the South Vietnamese people, till the complete victory of their struggle against US aggression, for national salvation.

March forward resolutely!

(Continued from page 1)

Since the Spring of the year Mau Than, the situation has radically changed in our favour, to the disadvantage of the enemy. Four-fifths of South Viet Nam's territory with three-quarters of its population have been liberated. In these conditions of victory, the South Viet Nam Congress of People's Representatives met and unanimously elected the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Advisory Council. This Government has been promptly recognized by over twenty fraternal and friendly countries, and warmly hailed by the people of the world.

Betraying the American people's interests, President Nixon has continued to step up the war of aggression in the southern part of our country, intensified attacks by B-52's and toxic chemicals, launched frenzied bombardments to destroy our villages and cities and massacre our compatriots, perpetrating new crimes of utmost barbarity.

Nixon is carrying out a scheme for "de-Amercanization" of the war in an attempt to use puppet troops to fight the South Vietnamese people.

At the Paris Conference, the US imperialists have stubbornly put forward extremely absurd demands, and refused to discuss seriously the reasonable and logical 10-point overall solution advocated by the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

Nixon plans to withdraw 25,000 US troops in an attempt to appease American and world public opinion. This is a trick.

The Vietnamese people firmly demand the withdrawal of all US and satellite troops, not the withdrawal of only 25,000 or 250,000 or 500,000 men, but a total, complete, unconditional withdrawal. Only in this way will it be possible to retrieve the honour of the United States, and to avoid for hundreds of thousands of young Americans a useless death in South Viet Nam, and suffering and mourning for hundreds of thousands of American families.

After the total withdrawal of the US and satellite troops and complete liberation of South Viet Nam from foreign invasion, the Provisional Coalition Government, as provided for in the 10-point overall solution, will organize free and democratic general elections to enable the South Vietnamese people to determine themselves their own political regime, elect a Constituent Assembly, work out a constitution, and set up the official Coalition Government of South Viet Nam without any foreign country being allowed to interfere. So long as US troops and the puppet administration remain in existence in South Viet Nam, really free and democratic general elections will be absolutely impossible.

The defeat of the US imperialists is already evident; still they have not given up their evil design of clinging to the southern part of our country. Our armed forces and people throughout the country, millions as one man, upholding revolutionary heroism, and fearless of sacrifices and hardships, are determined to carry on and step up the resistance war, with the firm resolve to fight and win, till the complete withdrawal of US troops and till the total collapse of the puppet army and administration, in order to liberate the South, defend the North and achieve ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

I take this opportunity to express, on behalf of the Vietnamese armed forces and people, our sincere thanks for the world's great support and assistance. I am confident that the fraternal socialist countries, all the peace- and justice-loving governments and peoples, including the progressive people in the United States, will extend increased support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's struggle against US aggression, for national salvation till total victory.

Fighters and compatriots in the whole country, march forward resolutely.

The US imperialist aggressors are doomed to defeat!

The Vietnamese people are sure to win total victory!

The South Vietnamese people are within their right to settle among themselves their own affairs

(South Viet Nam NFL statement)

The Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation on July 19 made public an important statement on the South Viet Nam situation, on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam (July 20).

The statement said:

"Under the repeated blows of the armed forces and people of Viet Nam and growing pressure from the public in the United States and the rest of the world, the US was forced to limit and then to cease the bombardments on North Viet Nam. Yet, the Nixon administration, unwilling to renounce its aggressive design against South Viet Nam and day-dream of a position of strength, keeps intensifying the war of aggression in South Viet Nam, perpetrating many more savage crimes against our people here, while repeatedly encroaching on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. Moreover, its stubborn and warlike policy has been the basic cause of the deadlock at the Paris Conference.

The 10-point overall solution to the South Viet Nam issue put forth by the NFL at the Paris Conference is consonant with the essentials of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and the realities in Viet Nam. It is based on the Political Program and the previous 5 points of the NFL and is in agreement with the 4 points of the RDVN Government. Unanimously approved of by the recent South Viet Nam Congress of People's Representatives and included in the 12-point Program of Action of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government, it has shown our people's desire for a political settlement of the war of aggression started by the US imperialists here and to restore peace in Viet Nam on the basis of respect for the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights.

That significant initiative, meant also to help on the 4-party Paris Conference on Viet Nam expresses the iron determination of our entire people and, consequently, has been warmly hailed and supported by the progressive public in the world and in the United States too.

The Nixon administration has not reciprocated our good will. In the so-called 8-point peace program, it repeated the demand for 'mutual withdrawal' thus showing its intention to delay the pull-out of US forces from South Viet Nam, to maintain the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration which the people here are seeking to overthrow, and to avoid the formation of a provisional coalition government for South Viet Nam.

It is thus quite clear that the US still persists in denying the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, in complete disregard of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and all international law.

Recently, the US decided to withdraw 25,000 of its troops from here. This however was but a trick to ward off severe criticism by the public at home and abroad, cover up its scheme to prolong the war, its stepped up terror raids, pacification operations and bombardments here, and its encroachments on the sovereignty and security of the DRVN. That move also aimed at gaining time to bolster up the puppet army and administration, to 'de-Americanize' the war, and to secure a position of strength both on the battlefied and at the conference table.

While negotiating against their will, the US and the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique stubbornly cling to the Manila formula of withdrawal, while frantically objecting to a coalition government and brazenly suppressing all progressive forces and individuals that stand for peace, independence and neutrality, all religious communities and any one wishing for a correct political solution to the South Viet Nam problem.

The puppets have thus revealed their own scheme to hold on to US disguised colonialism in their selfish interests, and the US its effort to doll up the puppets despised by our entire people and the whole world's peoples, to extricate Nixon from his present predicament, and to hoodwink the public in the United States and the world.

It is none other than the US that has manipulated Nguyen Van Thieu into selling his proposal for 'free elections' at US bayonet point and amid savage repression of the townspeople. As the communique issued by the delegation of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government at the Paris Conference has pointed out, this is but an impudent farce.

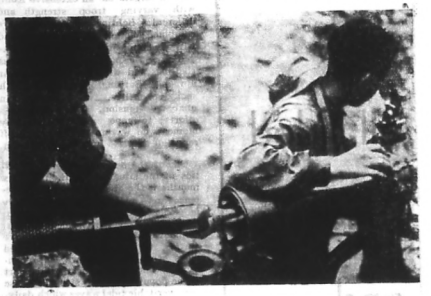
All these aggressive and bellicose schemes and all these fascist demagogic moves will stave off the US imperialist's and their henchmen's inescapable complete failure.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the entire Vietnamese people reaffirm their complete agreement with the statement of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government on the occasion of July 20 this year, which most clearly expounds the militant, resolute and clear-cut position, and the justice-blazing goodwill of our people".

"The key point in the Viet Nam issue is that as the aggressor, the US must stop its aggression, and as it has illegally brought its troops and troops of its satellites here, it must get all of them out, together with all military personnel, weapons and war means, without any conditions. Such a course of action by the US is called for by the spirit and letter of the Geneva Agreements. To solve the South Viet Nam question, the US must first of all recognize and respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam, as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements. The Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet clique does not represent anybody. The US must sincerely respect our people's self-determination. The South Vietnamese people are within their right to settle among themselves their own affairs, without foreign interference.

The statement stressed: "Let all the armed forces and the entire people of South Viet Nam, animated with their unshakeable resolve to fight for the implementation of the basic provisions of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam make all-out efforts to press their advantage; push up their offensives and uprisings, foster their military and political forces, promote their posture of strategic offensive in the towns, the country and the mountain areas, defeat the enemy's 'clear and hold' strategy, his 'pacification' program and all his offensive measures, and frustrate his attempt to conclude the war from a position of strength! Let us fight till the US quit and the puppets topple, in our resolve to exercise our sacred right to self-determination and to defend our inalienable basic national rights!"

PLAF gunners in Tay Ninh ready to slam shells on the enemy.



The VNANDPF approves and supports the just struggle of the urban population

(Excerpts from the VNANDPF' statement)

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam (July 20), the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces has issued a statement on the South Viet Nam situation.

The statement recalled that the historic Dien Bien Phu victory led to the signing of the 1954 Geneva Agreements which recognized the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Viet Nam and provided for the holding of free elections throughout Viet Nam in 1956 to reunify the country.

But the US, over the past fifteen years, has systematically been violating these accords and perpetrating many crimes against the South Vietnamese people. With bombs and shells and noxious chemicals, the US — puppets have been daily destroying fertile ricefields in South Viet Nam thereby rendering the people's life precarious. In cities and towns alone, they have put the people under their harsh control. They have been carrying out the policy of pauperizing and exploiting them to drag on their war of aggression. By increasing taxes, the US-puppets have seriously upset the life of various social strata including the upper classes. They have been using a thousand and one means to buy off intellectuals, artists, journalists and writers. Many intellectuals have been arrested, tortured and jailed for having echoed the people's aspiration for independence, peace and neutrality. Many newspapers have been closed down for telling only part of the truth. Even those advocating peace and neutrality have been imprisoned. The US-puppets have resorted to many tricks to limit the study of students and youth, drafting them into the puppet army to serve as cannon fodder for the aggressors.

Referring to the great successes of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, the statement said that the achievements in the general offensives and widespread uprisings which started in early spring last year have driven the US aggressors and the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppets into a passive defensive, confusion and utter isolation. The bigger their setback, the more barbarous and odious their behaviour. A large number of intellectuals, businessmen, writers and artists have realized more clearly the aggressive nature of the US imperialists. They have clearly seen the losing posture of the US imperialists and the fast disintegration of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique of traitors.

Under the impact of its heavy military, political and diplomatic reverses, the US had to end unconditionally its war of destruction in North Viet Nam and hold talks with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation at the 4-party Conference in Paris.

But it remains very stubborn and is blocking the progress of the Paris Conference.

To show its good will before the world, the NFL on May 8 put forth the 10-point overall solution on Viet Nam to break the deadlock of the Paris Conference. The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces unanimously approved this 10-point overall solution and regarded it as the most judicious and reasonable basis to settle peacefully the South Viet Nam issue. Loyal to its political program, the VNANDPF solemnly declared that the US must withdraw unconditionally all its troops and troops of its satellites from South Viet Nam, recognize the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people namely independence, national sovereignty and unity of the Fatherland. The US must talk in good faith with the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam on the basis of the 10-point overall solution of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation".

The statement pointed out: "The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces flatly rejects the so-called peace initiative, put forth by the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu.

It demands the replacement of Thieu-Ky-Huong war cabinet in order to facilitate the establishment of a provisional coalition government to hold free general elections and proceed toward the building of an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral, prosperous and strong South Viet Nam.

The VNANDPF warmly supports the July 20, 1969 statement of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government, and approves and supports the just struggle being waged by the urban population for the restoration of peace, an end to the war, the dismissal of the Thieu-Ky-Huong war cabinet and formation of a peace cabinet."

New all-sided successes and Further steady progress

Excerpt from an article in Quan Giai Phong newspaper (*Liberation Army*)

OUR tremendous and splendid all-sided successes in the past six months marked a new significant advance of our generalized offensives and uprisings, and another steady step forward of our People's Liberation Armed Forces, which have engendered fresh changes very favourable to us on the battlefield.

Firstly, at the very moment the enemy boasted of a perfected defensive plan, our armed forces and people launched simultaneous onslaughts in all the three strategic areas — the plains, the hills and the urban centres — thereby aggravating their passivity and impasse.

Toward the beginning of 1969 the Americans and their henchmen beat all their energies on the defence of the towns under their control with war methods and actions of un-precedentedly atrociousness. In violent sweeps on the outer perimeter, at times levelling entire population centres on a dozen kilometres' distance to set up a "white belt" all around, they ruthlessly terrorize the people living inside. In Saigon city alone, they mounted 5,000 police operations, in the first five months of the current year, i.e. over 30 a day.

Meanwhile, our armed forces and people greeted the Lunar New Year with considerably fruitful concerted attacks, which were to last until summer, on 35 cities and provincial capitals over 100 district towns and military sub-sectors and almost as many big US and puppet bases in all theatres of operations.

As a result, the urban front was in constant effervescence, particulary in Saigon and Danang cities — the enemy's best guarded strongholds-and also in the provincial capitals of Tam Ky, Quang Ngai, Qui Nhon, Phan Thiet, Da Lat, Phuoc Long, Tay Ninh, My Tho, Ben Tre, Can Tho, Ca Mau etc...

This further testifies to our remarkable strength and inexhaustible capabilities, our incessantly improved offensive posture, and the PLAF progress in the application of combat guidelines and combination of different tactical methods.

At once we hit the adversary from several quarters and struck at several targets on an extensive front, with varying troop strength and different fighting techniques. We combined actions from within and without his positions and put unrelaxed pressure on him with continous shellings and with concerted popular uprisings. Baffling our opponent with such versatility, we kept him in unabated tension, and despite his efforts to cope with us at any moment he was unable to ward off repeated surprise humilating reverses.

One of the outstanding characteristics of the situation in the past six months is the striking root of self-defence forces in the urban revolutionary movement, their vigorous development, their accurately spearheaded actions, their devastating blows at adverse nerve centres, their liquidation of wicked thugs who ground down our countrymen, and their effective support to the popular political struggle. These were veritable tidal waves which daily, and hourly eroded the groundwork of the US-puppet regime in its last ditch. The Yankees and their lackeys, alarmed and nonplussed, frantically grappled with these impetuous rushes they were simply incapable of stemming. Finally they admitted: large cities, Saigon included, and many US important positions have actually been surrounded; the initiative has fallen into the hands of the "Communists" who strike whenever they like, at the place they choose and with any force they want to deploy (UPI, June 15, 1969).

Secondly, within a short time and on many battlefields, our armed forces and people inflicted heavy casualties on entire enemy divisions, knocked out whole brigades and regiments, and wrought serious losses in terms of war means, equipment and structures.

All through the last six months the PLAF have incessantly raised their ability of seizing opportunities to attack and the destructive effect of their actions. At the very moment the enemy claimed that the "Viet Cong is exhausted", we staged well over a hundred assaults in all theatres. And as adverse short-term counterblows were under preparation, we sprang waves of onslaughts for many days running.

While the Americans sought to cut down their toll and shift over to the Saigon army the brunt of our blows, while the morale and combativeness of both US and puppet troops was on the downgrade, and while these, counting on their fortifications and strong fire power, were apparently digging in, the PLAF inflicted substantial losses on the US and puppet troops alike. This fact is of great significance: the US forces took heavier casualties and the puppet troops, instead of strengthening, continued to be depleted at a quicker rate and consequently were unable to bear their new burden of the war, both exhausted to the inability of discharging their strategic tasks.

Parallel to the wiping out of manpower, we destroyed a sizable amount of military means and equipment and structures.

The aftermaths of our accomplishments are not only enemy serious logistical and transport difficulties but also the weakening of the remaining support of the US and puppet forces and restriction of their mobility and possibility of providing airborn and mechanized relief. This state of things forces them to increase their operational transport by road — which makes it possible for us to put out of action a great deal of their troop strength and war means.

Our exacting of a considerable adverse toll and particularly our wiping out of sizeable units was a hard blow at the main support and instrument of the US war of aggression, further crippled Abrams' "clear and hold" strategy and worsened the sad plight of Nixon's "de-Americanization" or "Vietnamization" of the war. US Air Force magazine has exhaled the admission that the US South Viet Nam strategy was in an impasse.

Young volunteers, sure companions of the PLAF doing their bits in the successful fighting.

Our feats do not only illustrate the immense capabilities and iron determination of our armed forces and people, but also the PLAF constantly improving fighting capacity and diverse and imaginative tactical methods.

We were in perfect control of our forces and used them with flexibility by coordinating small, medium and large-scale operations, by combining the actions of three categories of armed forces, and by launching military offensives in conjunction with political onslaughts and agitation among adverse troops.

Every one of our arms and services knew its own opponent and paid great attention to raising its combat effectiveness and bringing into full play its role.

The PLAF progress supplies clearer evidence of their capability of powerful, continuous and sustained strikes, of putting more weight in their punch and of achieving greater successess in the course of the fighting.

THIRDLY, in rural areas, primarily those bordering on urban centres, military bases and strategic lifelines under enemy control, fairly widespread uprisings unfolded under appropriate forms. There guerilla warfare also expanded...

One of the positive lessons of great consequence drawn by us in many areas is the dismal failure inflicted on the "accelerated pacification" program, pushing up of the generalized offensives and uprisings and seizure of power by the people. Guerilla warfare grew rapidly and vigorously. Guerillas and regional troops, who unerringly took aim at their true opponents meted out due punishment to wicked thugs who ruled the roost at the grass-roots levels, and effectually helped the masses to rise up. They have thus revived and stepped up the mass drive to take part in the fighting with spiked traps, bombs, mines, etc..., while initiating an extensive movement for downing aircraft, destroying armoured vehicles and hunting warships, etc. hence the possibility of fighting off adverse raids.

After new setbacks in the first six months of 1969, the American aggressors and their henchmen still remain utterly stubborn and crafty. Their planned pullout of 25,000 men was just a move to deceive American and world opinion. In point of fact, the US has not made up its mind to give up its aggressive design upon the South of our country and is carrying on the "de-Americanization" of the war with unprecedented fury and trickiness to secure a "position of strength".

True to the traditional dauntlessness of the Vietnamese nation, and animated with unusual revolutionary heroism, the people of South Viet Nam and their armed forces are resolved to win through all difficulties, strengthen their offensive posture in all fields and turn to account the all-sided achievements they have scored in the first months of this year.

Interview

granted by H.E. Huynh Tan Phat, President of the PRG of the RSVN to W. Burchett, australian journalist

Question: *What is the significance of the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam?*

Answer: The formation of the PRG of the RSVN is the logic and inevitable outcome of the process of establishing People's Revolutionary Committees at all levels in South Viet Nam.

It meets the aspirations of all social strata in South Viet Nam and requirements of our struggle at this new stage, of generalized offensives and popular uprisings to achieve final victory.

Question: *What is the main task of the Government?*

Answer: The task of the PRG of the RSVN is to lead the fight of the entire people and all the Liberation armed forces, to consolidate and widen the national-union bloc in order to foil the American imperialists' aggressive war, overthrow the reactionary puppet regime, complete the liberation of South Viet Nam, build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and ultimately achieve the peaceful reunification of our country.

Question: *On what basis your Government would be prepared to negotiate a settlement of the war with the United States?*

Answer: We think that the 10-point overall solution to the South Vietnamese problem advanced by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation constitutes a fair and reasonable basis for a political settlement aimed at restoring peace in Viet Nam.

The crux of the matter is that being the aggressors of South Viet Nam, the US imperialists must unconditionally withdraw from South Viet Nam all their troops and those of foreign countries of their camp. Let them recognize our fundamental national rights and our right to self-determination which have been recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements. Apart from these questions of principle the abidance by which we are determined to fight for we have made, in the said 10-point overall solution, concrete, eminently pliable, realistic, fair and sensible proposals.

As a matter of fact, our 10 points have not only been favourably received and supported by our fellow countrymen at home and abroad but also by world and US public opinion.

And what has been US-puppet response to our serious attitude and goodwill?

The Americans have displayed utmost obstinacy. They have not made up their minds to renounce their aggressive war. They are persisting in it, though under the "de-Americanization" or "Vietnamization label the ill-fated "special war" strategy which is a return to the policy, so dear to the imperialists, of pitting Vietnamese under their command against Vietnamese — a move which boils down to reinforcing the puppet administration and army as instruments of aggression to maintain the US neo-colonialist regime in South Viet Nam.

As to the dictatorial, bellicose and rotten Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, they have taken exception to the unconditional withdrawal from South Viet Nam of the troops of the United States and foreign countries of its camp, and to the formation of either a provisional or permanent (constitutional) government, and pursuance by South Viet Nam of a policy of neutrality.

We have shown good-will and a large spirit of national concord to help the restoration of peace. Whether the war will end or drag on, whether the Paris Conference will progress or continue to mark time, wholly depends on the United States government.

Question: *What is the role of the Advisory Council headed by Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the NFL Central Committee?*

Answer: It is to give advice, prompted by the decisions of the Congress of People's representatives and the aspirations of people of all walks of life and all political tendencies, to the PRG in the elaboration of its internal and external policies.

Question: *Would you kindly give me an overall review of the military situation in South Viet Nam?*

Answer: Following the electrifying generalized offensive and popular uprisings in early spring 1968, the Americans were forced to fall back upon their defensive strategy in all theatres of operations and to operate successive backdowns of strategic significance.

Their defensive strategy has become ever more passive. Notwithstanding their reinforced defences, we can strike them in the remotest of their sanctuaries, in their best-guarded bases and towns.

As for us, we have never ceased gaining in strength in the process of the fighting and holding the initiative ever more firmly in all theatres of operations and in all the military, political and diplomatic fronts.

We have made it clear to the enemy that at present we are in a position not only to deliver repeated hard blows but also to fight on without let-up and that our stamina is greater than theirs. For the effectiveness of our armed forces and tactics, which have registered tremendous progress, have made it possible for us to inflict far more serious losses upon the enemy than we suffer ourselves; this explains why our troops are always in good shape and ready to launch offensive after offensive.

But, as I have said, the Americans are very stubborn. They are intensifying their aggressive war in South Viet Nam and trying to secure "a position of strength" and shore up the Saigon army and administration so as to maintain their neo-colonialist regime here.

Their attempt is bound to fail because of our resolve to thwart it and also because of the irreconcilable contradictions besetting it. How can the Americans reinvigorate the moribund Thieu-Ky-Huong clique and their disintegrating army at a time when they are themselves weakened and hopelessly driven deep into a blind alley?

Their "de-Americanization" or "Vietnamization" of the war in South Viet Nam will turn out to be sheer illusion.

Saigon students demonstrating against the Thieu-Ky-Huong dictatorial rule

Students oppose US puppet military training

On July 5th, 6th, 11th and 14th, thousands of medical, scientific and pharmaceutical students in Saigon went on strike and held teach-ins in protest against the US-puppet "military order".

Alarmed at these waves strong protest, on July 17th the Saigon puppet administration ordered a siege by the field police force of the pharmacy, literature and science Faculties. The police beat back with those newspapermen trying to get in for first-hand information. At the literature Faculty, it secretly kidnapped a number of students and strengthened the guard over the campus.

To protest against the encirclement and isolation of the campuses, many students demonstrated at some Saigon street corners, and denounced that the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique attempted to buy off students with money, grants and so-called "favours" and "privileges". In the meantime, hundreds of students staged a hunger-strike in the auditoriums of the literature and sciences Faculties.

On June 17th, a number of MPs of the Saigon "National Assembly" held a press conference in protest against US-puppet naked threats and terrorism. Quite a few professors were in favour of the struggle of their students. In defiance of the above-said protests, the Saigon puppet administration resorted to violence on July 18th, to force a number of students into GMC lorries and carried them to the Quang Trung military training camp. On that very day, the students sent a delegation to the "Upper House" of the "National Assembly" to urge immediate steps and handed a protest against US-puppet violence to the press. The president of the Executive Commitee of the Saigon Students Union also issued a declaration condemning the US-puppet persecution of students and calling on their South Viet Nam fellows and urbain population as well as on various students' organisations in the world to actively support their struggle.

Miss To Thi Thuy, from the Press department of the Students' Union, declared that the students had asked the Saigon administration to release the 11 students arrested for participation in the peace demonstration. The students' ebullient drive against military training is still going on.

● On July 18th, in a send-off to a number of home-bound GI's, US-puppet police and military police, on instructions from above manhandled journalists covering the event.

In an account on this US-puppet bullying of press representatives, AFP wrote on June 8th: "At the ceremony, people see a MP dragging a photographer standing in front of the platform out". On July 13th, 53 Saigon newsmen decide to stage a 24 hour protest hunger strike at the Saigon Press-Club.

When the action began, the head of the puppet press department hurried to the Club to try to settle the matter. On behalf of the Tran Van Huong "cabinet", he handed a pledge promising that such violence would never occur again and no "difficulties" whatsoever would be raised to journalists.

Fully aware of the US-puppet deception, many pressemen said if the promise was not strictly faithfully kept, "violent reactions" and appropriate steps could be expected from the Saigon press.

It is common knowledge that the US-puppet administration has not stopped at any fascist crack-down on the press in occupied areas: from the closure of more than 30 newspapers for one year to the imprisonment of many Saigon reporters, editors and editors-in-chief.

WATER

At five o'clock, a liaison agent would come and take me deeper into northern Long An. I sat with my back against a "tram bau" tree on the edge of the water. It was the flood season. Before me was an immense expanse and there was no indication as to where the canal was, and where the ricefields. The wind raised long ripples on the surface of the water, which came splashing at the foot of the "tram bau". The horizon was a bluish hazy line, over which dark dots were hovering: helicopters. A mist was hanging over the flooded area, in which gorgeous beams of the setting sun were mirrored. Water, and nothing else, everywhere. "Where the village green with trees?", I asked myself.

A plash of oars was heard coming from behind a knoll. The liaison agent was there. Although forewarned, I was somewhat bewildered when his boat came close: a young boy, about 15, with a dark complexion, close-cropped hair and a receding chin. His olive shirt was only buttoned in the upper part, with the lower part flapping in the wind. Water was dripping from the long pole in his hands, and there was about an inch of water at the bottom of the boat. An automatic rifle was laid, across the craft in front of his feet. The boy was standing, and the wind blowing under his shirt uncovered some grenades hooked to his belt.

Yesterday, someone had talked to me about the boy. Last year, also in the flood season, he acted as guide for two cadres on a mission to the region. When the boat was half-way across the submerged fields, it was spotted by an American helicopter, which swooped down on it. The boy cried out to the men, "Dive!", which they hastily did. As for him, he remained firmly planted, on his feet, raised his gun and opened fire at the chopper at very close range. Presently the helicopter burst into flames and plummeted in the water. The boy shouted for the men to come on board again. "I'll take you on another route. They won't find us!" he said. The men came to destination safe and sound.

The canoe was gliding straight ahead into the mist hanging over wide expanse of water. The cloud above head had taken the shape of a swimming crocodile. The immensity facing me filled me with the impression of something at the same time great and deep, and remote. We were going in the winds eye. The boy concentrated on punting the sampan forward with the long pole. With each thrust, the water lashed against the sides of the boat and the lower part of his shirt flapped in the wind.

I tried to break the ice: "Are we going over canal or ricefield, Tang?"

"Ricefield, brother. In this season, it doesn't matter which we are going over".

"But where is the canal? I don't see the trees lining it". "Trees?" the boy answered with a snort. "How could you ask about trees? Didn't you know they had sworn to erase all the green from Long An? Were it not for the flood water, you'd see bomb and shell craters everywhere".

I regretted my question. I had felt ashamed when my young friend retorted reproachfully, "How could you ask about trees?" In other areas, where US "pacification" raids had not been nearly as fierce as here (Long An was a "priority pacification area"), I had seen the ground pock-marked with enormous craters. Yes, over the past fourteen years, even vegetation had been involved in the struggle against the American aggressors.

I tried to correct myself. I was asking about newly-planted trees. Say, how do you travel about in the dry season?"

"I just hoof. After the water has receded, we pull the boats ashore. We also walk when there isn't enough flood water yet to move about in a boat. Then we sometimes wade two or three hours in succession without having a dry place to rest. In many places, the water comes up to our waist, and we have to carry the documents on our heads".

"I suppose you make a trip every few days..."

The boy laughed. "I make several trips each day. If there is something urgent, they wake me up in the midst of my sleep".

Heavy dew began falling on the water as night came. The waves darkened, and blurred the horizon line which seemed to reel back further when star shells flashed up in the sky, from an enemy post in front.

Suddenly the boat made an abrupt turn.

"What happened?" I asked.

"I forgot to tell you, brother, that you'll be taken through a special route..."

"Yes?"

"It's a short cut. It will save you two nights' wading".

The boat was now going quite fast, with the wind blowing from the side. About two hours later, we stopped at the tip of a small sandy beach jutting out into the water. In the distance I saw a few clumps of trees, looking like clusters of people cumbered with loads.

"Here we are, brother Chin," Tang said. "Wait for me here, I'll be right back".

He jumped ashore and walked away. In a moment, I heard a voice ask, "Who goes there?" and Tang answer, "Me. From R. 45".

"Is it you, Tang?"

"Yes brother. A cadre has got a pass through your route".

"Does he have all the papers? Good. Bring him here, and return to base quick. Keep your eyes skinned, the helicopters were active here yesterday."

Tang took me to see the station-chief. He was taking his evening bath, sitting on a branch jutting out over the water. I saw his aluminium scoop moving up and down, and smelled lemon-balm soap. Then I heard his voice:

"It's high time you left for home, Tang. You don't know me, but I know you..." Turning to me, he added, "Wait a minute, will you?... The rest is not far. You see the tree over there?"

It was a tree standing alone amidst the water. Its foliage was shaped, like a dark ball, as if it had been trimmed. Tang left, but soon retraced his steps and came up to me. "Be careful, brother Chin" he said. "Don't sleep too soundly tonight. The place is rather exposed."

The station-chief had finished his bath. He was about 28 and walked with a limp. I saw his light complexion in the darkness. He told me that he had served with the regional troops but had been wounded in battle and so had been put in charge of this station. I handed him my papers, but he didn't look at them. "Tang brought you here. This means you're all right. Now, we are constantly on the move here. So I hope you won't mind the lack of comfort."

He lashed his body with his towel, as if to drive away some mosquitoes.

"Does the boy come here often?" I asked.

"Not very often, because this is a special route. Tang doesn't know me, but I know him. He's from a neighbouring village. He is still quite young, but mind you, he has shot down an American helicopter. Now, hang your hammock and get a rest. I'll show you how to cook your rice in the morning. We'll leave in the afternoon... Oh, what a wind!"

It was delightfully cool amidst this immense expanse. A fresh wind was blowing, and there was not a single mosquito to bother you. The wind made the vault of heaven seem wider, higher, and cleaner.

We were slowing making our way to the tree. The water came up to our chests. It was a rustling ô môi tree, and the air was fragrant, it seemed, with the smell of its resin. The water came half-way up its trunk. As we came nearer, I saw a few shrubs almost submerged.

My hammock was as comfortable as a rubber foam mattress. As I lay there, listening to the wind and the waves, I thought of Tang. It was a hard day for him, yet he was so thoughtful for me. "Be careful, brother," I remembered his last words, "the place is rather exposed."

All of a sudden, distant reports of heavy guns came from every side, mingled to the roar of helicopter engines. The beams of searchlights started sweeping the flooded vastness. The sight reminded me of the days of yore, when peasants roamed the flooded fields with acetylene lights looking for fish.

It was hard to go to sleep with the wind blowing and the waves splashing. Old memories came back as I tossed in my hammock. I thought of the people I had met in Long An during the former resistance. I knew a village teacher who used to live near a river confluence further south. He had a little daughter. What had become of her? Was she now a revolutionary cadre, or a guerilla? And that old woman who was so fond of her "adopted sons" in the people's army. Would she live to see the day of victory she had been dreaming of?

A spattering noise of people wading in the water interrupted my reverie. Two more guests were coming. One was saying laughingly to his friend: "The station-chief said he would show us how to cook our rice in the morning. I am curious to see how you can cook rice in a place where there's not a dry spot as big as your hand. This is some place!"

Yes, it was some place. Just before daybreak, before the mist had dissipated, the man sleeping in the hammock beside mine shouted in my ears, "The choppers! Get up, quick!"

There was a shriek overhead and I saw a fish-shaped machine diving on us and heard the whizz of projectiles tearing the air, and sparting the water. Clouds of smoke rose all around.

"They're firing on us! Let's get away from here!" the man was shouting.

Get away from here? Yes, but where? There was nothing but water all around.

"Don't try to get away!" a voice was shouting. "Get hold of a tree and slide down to the bottom." The roar of jets was heard coming from a distance.

The voice came from a man in red short standing in the water and looking at the sky. I obeyed his instructions.

Before I went under the water, I saw four jets circling overhead and dropping what looked like silvery containers. The containers did not fall straight. They seemed to oscillate in mid-air, releasing with each oscillation a swarm of black dots, like pepper being sprinkled from a pepper-box.

"Steel-pellet bombs!" the man in red shorts was shouting. "Dive, quick!" I plunged. An explosion gave me a splitting pain in the ear-drums. When I came up for a breath of air, I saw my mess-tin being blown away by a blast and disappearing under the water.

On their seventh strike, the planes used both explosive and napalm bombs. The air reeked with the smell of jellified gazoline. We could not see the rising sun for the thick smoke.

"I can't see because of the smoke!" the man in red shorts was crying. "Can no longer hear for my ears tingle after those defening explosions. So look out for yourselves. Every time you hear the planes roar down, dive quick!"

About ten minutes later, his voice again resounded: "Let's see whether anyone is missing!" I realized that the raid was over. The man in red short, the station-chief as I saw him quite clearly now, was counting slowly, pointing his finger: "One, two..." A broad smile came to his lips as he said, "All right, all three of you are here." He turned to look and exclaimed, "Heaven, my tree has gone!".

Well, the ô môi tree had gone. Not a trace of it. Now that the thick foliage was no longer there, the sky looked unusually high!

"Get your packs, comrades, and let's go," the station-chief said.

We dived and tried as best we could to recover our things.

"Where are we going?" I asked.

"To the village," came the answer.

"Did you say to the village? Where is it?"

"Over there. That greenish line just above the water."

I looked in the direction of his finger and saw a hazy line close to the waves.

In the distance the planes were still roaming the sky and we heard the muffled explosions of bombs and the distant rumble of engines...

(Be continued)

DINH QUANG NHA

Water-colour by
LE LAM

ON THE OCCASION OF JULY THE 23

Full support for laotians' inviolable self-defence right

The Geneva Agreement on Laos was signed on July 23, 1962 and the Tripartite National Union Government was set up as a result of the policy of national concord and culmination of years of struggle waged by the brotherly people of Laos against US aggression, for national salvation under the clearsighted leadership of the Laotian Patriotic Front led by esteemed Prince Souphanouvong.

Ever since, the valiant resistance of the Laotian people against US imperialism and its flunkeys, the reactionary clique in Vientiane, has been unceasingly growing and have recorded ever more brilliant achievements in all fields, military, political, diplomatic as well as in economic construction and the building of the liberated zone.

The Laotian partriots' feats : shooting down more than 1,000 US planes, beating off the large-scale encroachment operations against the liberated area of Xieng Khoang and most recently, the big success scored in Muong Xui which resulted in the overrunning of over 60 enemy positions and many airfields and artillery sites, were tunning blows dealt at the mercenary army of the US, the Thai mercenary troops and their US bosses who are prosecuting their special war in Laos. This is a clear indication that the patriotic armed forces and people of Laos are in an offensive posture and become stronger as they fight while the US imperialists and their henchmen are in a losing position on the defensive and in a state of passivity.

The Muong Xui victory also demonstrates the quick growth of the patriotic armed forces of Laos, the iron-like will of the Laotian army and people to mete out due punishment to the enemy in exercising their imprescriptible right to self-defence and to safeguard the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos and the independence and neutrality of Laos.

Under the impact of their repeated and heavy setbacks and in an attempt to hide the US crime of aggression, US henchmen in the Vientiane administration are resorting to their customary trick of slandering and distorting the truth.

As is known to everybody, it is the US that has been interfering and has invaded Laos, it is the US and its flunkeys in Laos that have cruelly trampled upon the fundamental national rights of the Laotian people, systematically sabotaged the 1962 Geneva Agreement on Laos with a view to converting Laos into a neo-colony and military base in service of their war plans and to repress the national liberation movements in Indo-China and Southeast Asia.

In the face of this situation, the Laotian people under the leadership of the Laotian Patriotic Front headed by Prince Souphanouvong have had no other alternative than to uphold the right of their legitimate right of self-defence in order to defend their sacred national rights, determined to push up the just resistance against US aggression, for national salvation till complete victory for the realisation of a peaceful, independent, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos. If the US imperialists and their henchmen obdurately prosecute their war of aggression in Laos, they will certainly receive more punishing blows the Laotian patriotic forces and people and will meet with ignominious defeat.

The people and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam thoroughly and uncompromisingly support the just and militant position and the legitimate right to self-defence of the Laotian patriotic forces and people asserted in the statements of July 3, July 6 and July 20, 1969 of the Central Committee of the Laotian Patriotic Front.

The South Viet Nam people warmly welcome the ever bigger successes of the Laotian people, especially their major victory in Muong Xui. They are resolved to emulate the brotherly Laotian people, dash forward in the flush of new victories to defeat the common enemy of the two peoples — the US imperialist aggressors — for the sake of the independence, freedom and peace of the peoples of the Indo-Chinese countries.

MILITANT SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE RSVN AND THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

A press conference was held on July 15 in the liberated zone to make public a communique of the Council of Ministers of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government on the friendship visit paid recently to the Kingdom of Cambodia by a delegation of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government.

Prof. Ung Ngoc Ky, Vice-Minister of the Office of the Government's President, and member of the Government delegation back from Cambodia, presented the communique to the audience comprising representatives of Radio Giai Phong, Giai Phong Press Agency, South Viet Nam in struggle, dailies and periodicals published in the liberated zone, and newsmen and writers from Saigon.

The communique reaffirmed the policy consistently followed by both the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government regarding the Kingdom of Cambodia — to strengthen friendship and solidarity on the basis of respect for each other's fundamental, long-term interests, and of each other's way of national construction, and on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence.

The communique affirmed the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government's recognition of and complete respect for Cambodia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity in her present borders, and its policy of non-interference in each other's internal affairs.

That policy of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government is not fortuitous, but is based on the immovable and sacred principles on nationalism, democracy, justice and peace, which the South Vietnamese people have chosen as their raison d'être and the goal of their fight.

The communique recalled the view adopted by the Delegation of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government and the Delegation of the Cambodian Royal Government during their formal talks to the effect that the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Cambodia are building their relations in a historic era when the world's people are condemning and seeking to overthrow imperialism, old and new colonialism, expansionism, great-nation-mindedness, chauvinism, and all other narrow-minded nationalism. When any nation victim of aggression, oppression or bullying, however small but resolved to defend its independence and closely united in struggle, can victoriously resist any enemy, however strong he may be. Such a nation is never alone in the fight to defend its national rights.

"Besides these basic principles, the history of the Republic of South Viet Nam and that of the Kingdom of Cambodia have also provided a strong basis for their relations of solidarity and friendship. It pointed out that being both victims of colonialist domination formerly and of US intervention and aggression at present and having both the resolve to defend their independence sovereignty, neutrality, territorial integrity and national unity, and to achieve social progress, the people of South Viet Nam and the Cambodian people are bound together more closely by heart-felt militant friendship in the struggle against the same enemy, the US imperialist interventionists and aggressors, and their lackeys," the communique said.

In this sacred fight, the communique stressed, they both realize more and more clearly their great ability to liberate themselves, the ability of their neighbours and of all oppressed nations, hence their greater confidence in and respect for each other, and their desire to rely on each other, not only for the time being but for ever, in the fight against their sworn enemy who is threatening or trampling upon their own independence and sovereignty.

The communique expressed the sincere gratitude of the Council of Ministers of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government to Queen Kossamak Nearireath, Cambodian Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Acting Premier Cheu Ket and the Cambodian Royal Government and the fraternal Khmer people for the cordial, warm and grand reception they had given to the Delegation of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government, for the high decorations of the Kingdom conferred by Samdech Head of State on the delegation, for his meaningful gifts to the RSVN Government, the Advisory Council, and the people and fighters of South Viet Nam and especially for the Cambodia's unswerving policy of unreserved, consistent support for the resistance war waged by the South Vietnamese people, under the leadership of the the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government, against the US aggressors and their puppets, for national salvation, independence and peace.

FROM SAIGON PRESS:

The virus of corruption reigns supreme in residences

The Nixon government which, to the best of its abilities, is bolstering up the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration, and trying to put on it a "legal", "constitutional" face. What, however, are the hard facts? The press in Saigon itself has a cut and dried opinion on this score.

Cong Luan of May 30, 1969, reporting on a meeting of both Houses in Saigon ten days earlier, wrote :

"Senator Nguyen Tu Ban, well-known for his moderation and "harmlessness", moved that the special tribunal set up by Thieu be abolished as contrary to the viewpoint of the National Assembly.

Representative Truong Gia Ky said, "We don't accept dictatorship".

As for Senator Nguyen Dai Phuoc, he remarked "The views of the legislative have always been slighted by the executive".

"If President Nguyen Van Thieu, senator Nguyen Ngoc Ky warned, continues issuing decrees at discretion, he will surely meet with a strong reaction from the senators and representatives".

The same paper also wrote on May 27 this year: "Neutrality, a word perfectly familiar to public opinion, is anathema in South Viet Nam. Thus far, just as anyone who advocates neutrality is regarded as a pro-Communist, so anyone who stands for peace has been looked upon as a false pacifist, and anyone who advocates talks with the NFLA as an abettor of the Communists".

As to corruption, rampant in the Saigon administration, *Song* (June 9, 1968) had this to say : "At a time when the whole society is hunting down corrupt elements, the virus of corruption reigns supreme in sumptuous villas and residences".

Thoi Luan (July 1, 1968) pointed out, "At present, Colonel Nhieu (the Mayor of Saigon, Ed.) is not the only one in the administration and army who may have a past record of corruption. Many others have been, and still are, guilty of graft".

On the same matter, *Song* (July 2, 1968) wrote : "He (Tran Van Huong, Ed.) once compared our country to a boat about to sink. The whole administration has turned topsy turvy, its words do not jibe with its deeds and corruption is beyond remedy".

With regard to the strife dividing the puppet authorities, *Thoi Bao* (June 23, 1968) was very explicit : "Hatred and factionalism plague the National Assembly which totally lacks a standard and a clear conception of national construction".

Tien (July 22, 1968) admitted : "We all see that (occupied, Ed) South Viet Nam does not yet possess a leader deserving of the confidence and consideration of the people and of being followed by them, or a political organization with a past record clean enough to appeal to the masses. Virtually all the Southerners politicians are politicians of fortune, a number of them being incapable elements fathered and dolled up by the colonialists and feudalists for the part they have to play.

Thoi Dai Moi, in a May issue this year, commented : "Thieu's Alliance resembles a shaky four-wheel car carrying much fewer passengers than expected". Thieu's "fine dream", the paper added, has become a "nightmare" and the "solidarity" he calls for flickers like a "dim glimmer at the horizon".

Cong Luan wrote last May 24, "When offered membership to political parties, people take fright as though they were lured into a dark alley, deprived of the light of justice".

As far as international relations are concerned *Song* of July 4, 1968 pointed out : "Ambassador Nguyen Huu Chi has revealed a painful reality We are mistaken by the outside world as subservient to the Americans and there are foreign ambassadors to the United Nations who do not want to openly show their sympathy for the Republic of Viet Nam for fear of being exposed by other countries as US followers".

Are further comments needed to give the lie to the "legality" and "constitutionality" of the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration ?

July the 20th in the world

THIS year, July the 20th has been commemorated with significant solemnity and animation.

Support to Viet Nam was expressed in numerous and lively forms under the watchwords: "The USA must immediately stop its aggressive war in South Viet Nam, withdraw all US and satellite troops out of South Viet Nam without laying down any condition whatsoever, respect the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people, settle the South Viet Nam problem in accordance with the ten-point overall solution proposed by the NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam."

Most stirring was the movement to observe "Weeks or Months of solidarity with the Vietnamese people struggling against US aggression".

In many countries, workers, students and people from other strata held meetings to mark July 20th, during which resolutions were passed condemning the US dirty aggressive war, US barbarous crimes in Viet Nam and US systematic sabotage of the Geneva Agreements. Once again, the world peoples voiced their full support to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the ten-point overall solution proposed by the NFL, and pledged resolute backing to the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people until complete victory.

In response to the appeals of the Stockholm International Conference in Support of Viet Nam (May 1969) and the Berlin International Conference for Peace (June 1969), many international, regional and national organizations such as the WFTU, IFDW, WFDY, IUS, IADL, the Tricontinental Solidarity Organization, the Associations of Friendship and Solidarity with Viet Nam in the Soviet Union, France, the Association of Italian partisans, the Students' Federation of Pakistan, the Swedish Committee of solidarity with Viet Nam, the Burmese Peace Council and Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee... issued declarations, called meetings in support of Viet Nam, sent delegates to US embassies with petitions protesting against the US aggressive war in Viet Nam or dispatched messages and letters to the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to the Paris Conference greeting the establishment of this government.

Besides political and moral support, the world peoples stepped up their material aid such as collections of medicine for the South Vietnamese people who are scoring success after success most ruthless aggressor known in history.

The press, news agencies and radios in many countries put out editorials and commentaries flaying US intensifying and prolonging the aggressive war in South Viet Nam and obdurately refusing to engage in serious talks to settle the South Viet Nam problem correctly and reasonably as proposed by the NFL in its ten-point overall solution. Expressing their support to the Vietnamese people's struggle, most of the papers reproduced in full the Appeal to the Vietnamese people by President Ho Chi Minh on the occasion of July 20th, the Declarations of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, the NFL, the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces.

This year July 20th was also an opportunity for the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to further strengthen the friendship and militant solidarity between the South Viet Nam people and Provisional Revolutionary Government and the peoples and Gouvernments of other countries. Thus, in many countries, ambassadors of this Government gave press conferences, film shows, photo exhibitions... to introduce the fight and life of the South Vietnamese people to the leaders and peoples of the fraternal countries.

We warmly welcome, and are sincerely thankful for, the sympathy and support of all these peoples and governments, democratic and progressive organizations with regard to the just and surely victorious struggle of the South Vietnamese people. This, indeed, constitutes a powerful inspiration for the South Vietnamese people to win new successes.

IN BRIEF

● The "American Committee of solidarity with the Vietnamese people" a new anti-war organisation in the United States was established at a Congress recently held in San Francisco attended by representatives of various progressive organisations and many American personalities.

Fred Chards was elected president and Mrs Margaret Driggs secretary.

● On behalf of the Committee, Mrs Driggs recently sent a letter to Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister for foreign affairs and Chief of the PRG of the NSVN Delegation at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. The secretary of the American Committee of solidarity with the Vietnamese people emphasized that the Committee will do its best to compel the US government to recognize the PRG of the NSVN as the genuine government in South Viet Nam.

● The US Court of appeal, on July 11, cancelled the judgment pronounced last year by the Federal Tribunal condemning Doctor Benjamin Spock to two years' imprisonment and 5,000 dollars' fine.

It is known that Dr. Benjamin Spock, a well-known fighter of peace, and four other American intellectuals had been arbitrarily condemned for having called on the American youth "to protest the Johnson administration's unjust power".

Full support to the Japanese people's just struggle

TWENTY-FOUR years ago, on August 6, 1945, the American imperialists committed a most dastardly crime against the Japanese people. The havoc wrought by the US atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and their disastrous consequences still shock human conscience.

Ironically enough, it is the American imperialists who now take former leading Japanese fascists under their protection, using them to terrorize and repress the Japanese people. The Japanese-US Security Treaty is nothing but an infamous document under whose terms the Japanese reactionary authorities let the American imperialists trample underfoot their country's fundamental national rights and turn their country into a US military base for aggression. As everybody knows, with the aid and abetment of the Japanese reactionary authorities and industrialists, American military bases and occupation troops in Japan play no small a part in the US dirty war of aggression in Viet Nam. Flouting international law, the USA have stockpiled in Okinawa many kinds of toxic gas and chemical weapons to be used against the people of South Viet Nam, where experiences will be drawn for their eventual chemical and bacteriological warfare elsewhere.

For their sacred rights and lofty internationalist duties, the Japanese people have shrunk from no hardships nor sacrifices, fought steadfastly continously and valiantly against the US imperialist aggressors and the Japanese reactionary authorities, their lackeys.

Fighting in common front against American imperialism the Japanese people have persistently given an active, widespread and powerful support to the South Vietnamese people's resistance against US aggression, for national salvation, considering it their own. In its 14th meeting (July 31-August 5, 1968) held under the motto "For closer solidarity with the Vietnamese people struggling against American imperialist aggression", the World Conference Against A and H bombs voted a resolution demanding that the USA end immediately its war of aggression in Viet Nam, stop its bombing over the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, withdraw all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam without any condition whatsoever, and thoroughly respect the right of the South Vietnamese people to settle their affairs without foreign interference. The warm support of the Japanese people to the South Vietnamese people can also be seen in many other multiform actions.

The South Vietnamese people are extremely moved and deeply thankful for this heartfelt support of the fraternal Japanese people, regarding it as a powerful and precious encouragement to their resistance against American aggression, for national salvation.

Bound up with Japanese people by an indefectible friendship, the South Vietnamese people completely sympathize with, and fully support, the just struggle of the Japanese people against US imperialism and its stooges for the cancellation of the Japanese-US Security Treaty and US withdrawall from Japan and return of Okinawa and Ogasawara to her.

May the militant solidarity between the South Vietnamese and the Japanese peoples strengthen and thrive with every passing day!

We shall surely win!

Japanese workers unyieldingly face US troops for 24 hours at US Zukeran base (Okinawa). Photo: JAPAN PRESS

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